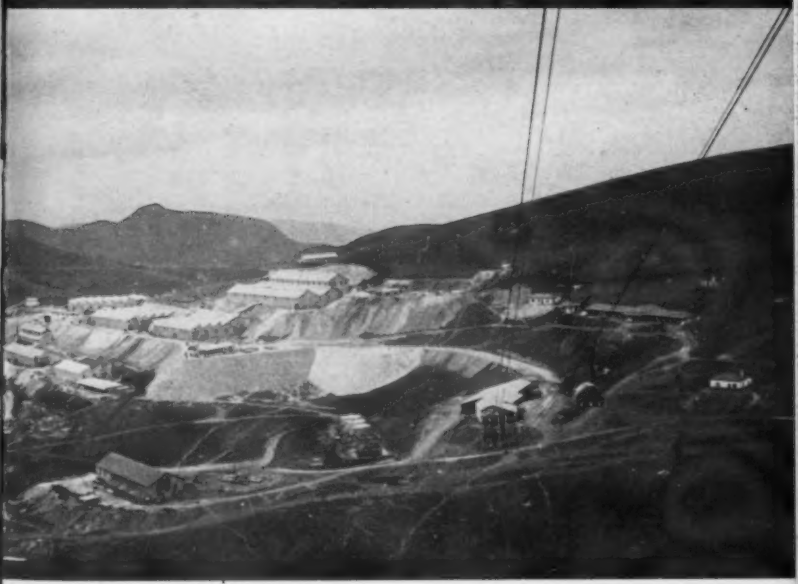
ASBESTOS

SEPTEMBER, NINETEEN FORTY



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"ASBESTOS"

FOUNDED IN JULY 1919 AND PUBLISHED
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A. S. ROSSITER, *EDITOR*

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY

And The Asbestos Handkerchief

> "At a meeting of the Royal Society in 1676, a merchant from China exhibited a handkerchief of 'salamander's wool' or linum asbesti."

This story, which has become legend in the Asbestos Industry, was published in the August 1921 number of "ASBESTOS" (page 15) in an article on "The Discovery and Early Uses of Asbestos."

Recently some doubt was cast upon the story, principally because the Royal Society is a most exclusive organization and only men of science are ever admitted to its meetings. We were urged to obtain, if possible, the basis for the story. After some scouting we found it and while the facts were at some variance with the legend, they are almost, if not quite, as interesting.

The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge is usually considered to have been founded in the year 1660, but a nucleus had in fact been in existence for some years before that date. It is the oldest scientific society in Great Britain and one of the oldest in Europe. Its charter of organization passed the Great Seal on July 15, 1662.

Inquiry at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, elicited the very interesting information that a copy of the Proceedings of the Society from 1665 on are in the Library of the American Philosophical Society, Drexel Building, Philadelphia. A search thru those Proceedings resulted in the finding of a copy of:

> "A Letter from Mr. Nich. Waite, Merchant of London, to Dr. Rob. Plot; concerning some Incombustible Cloth, lately exposed to the Fire before the Royal Society".

The letter mentioned was dated September 10, 1684.

The "handkerchief" as described in the records of the Royal Society was 9 in. in length, with the fringe or tassels at each end making 3 in. more, or 1 foot in all. It was ½ foot wide.

This photograph has been reproduced from the records of the Royal Society in the Library of the American Philosophical Society, Drexel Building, Philadelphia.

We quote it in full, and also the description of the "handkerchief":

"Sir: The great respect and honour I bear to the learned and ingenious Gentlemen of the Royal Society, prevailed with me, within few days after my arrival in this City, to expose to their sight and examination a piece of Linnen Cloth, which by their experiment consumed not in the fire: and you being then desirous I would give a short narrative of what Substance, and in what parts it is said to be made; I here send you the same account I received of it, from one Conco, a natural Chinese, resident in the City of Batavia in the North-East parts of India. Who, by means of Keayarear Sukradana (likewise a Chinese, and formerly chief customer to the old Sultan of Bantam) did after several years diligence, procure, from a great Mandarin in Lanquin (a province of China) near ¾ of a yard of the said cloth; and declared that he was credibly informed, that the Princes of Tartary, and others adjoyning to them, did use it in burning their dead; and that it was said and believed by them, to be made of the under part of the root

of a tree growing in the Province of Sutan; and was supposed, in like manner, to be made of the Todda trees in India: and that, of the upper part of said root, near the surface of the ground, was made a finer sort, which in three or four times burning I have seen diminish almost half: They report also that out of the said tree there distills a liquor, which not consuming, is used with a Wick made of the same material with the cloth, to burn in their Temples to posterity. This, Sr., is the true relation I received of the nature and substance of it from the Chinese above mentioned; if as a vegetable it agree not with your Experiments or judgment, your own commands obligeing me to render you this account, I hope there will not any ill construction be made thereof, which is all the Favour is desired by—Your most assured Humble Servant Nich. Waite. (London, Sept. 10th, 1684)"

DESCRIPTION OF THE HANDKERCHIEF.[1]

The Handkerchief or pattern of this Incombustible Linnen, which was shewn the Royal Society, (part whereof is engraven Fig. 3.) being measured, was found in length 9 Inches, between the fringe or tassels; the fringe at each end being 3 Inches more; so that the whole was just a foot in length; and the breadth was just ½ a foot.

There were two proofs of its resisting fire, given at London: one, before some of the Members of the R. Society, privatly, Aug. 20, 1684; when Oyl was permitted to be poured upon it whilst red hot, to enforce the violence of the fire; before it was put into the fire this first trial, it weighed one ounce, six drams, sixteen grains, and lost in the burning two drams, five grains.

The second Experiment of it was publick before the Society, Nov. 12 following, when it weighed (as appears by the Journal of the Society) before it was put into the fire, one ounce, three drams, 18 grains. Being put into a clear

[1]As copied from the Proceedings of the Royal Society. Note the odd spelling of several words and the very odd punctuation. In the Proceedings the letter "s" is in many places written similar to an "f", but as that makes it difficult to read, we used the regular letter "s" in all cases.

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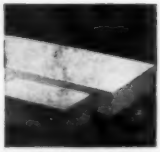

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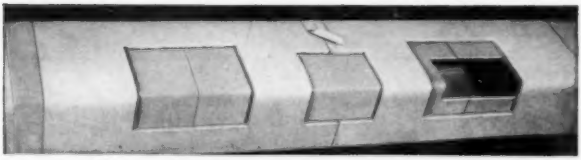

Cut-out view of CAREYDUCT—assembled sections showing staggered joint construction and taped outer jacket. Smooth appearance.

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BRANCHES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

Charcoal fire, it was permitted to continue red hot in it, for several minutes: when taken out (though red hot) it did not consume a piece of white paper, on which it was layd: it was presently cool and upon weighing it again, was found to have lost one dram, 6 grains.

Dec. 3, Mr. Arthur Bayly, one of the Fellows of the R. Society, presented them with a piece of this Linnen in the name of Mr. Waite. At the same time, the same Mr. Bayly presented Dr. Plot with another piece of it, which being brought to Oxford the Experiment was again repeated on it (Dec. 16.) it being put into a strong Charcoal fire in the Natural History School, in a full meeting of the Philosophical Society of that University; where after it had continued red hot for some considerable time, it was taken forth again little altered when cold, saving that it seemed a little whiter and cleaner than before it was put in; as appears upon the Journal of the Society. Concerning which, Dr. Plot, being desired to offer his thoughts, drew up the following Discours, which was read before the said Society, June the 23d An. 1685.

—:—

From these two documents it would appear that the "merchant from China" was not of Chinese nationality as has been supposed, and that the showing of the handkerchief before the Society was actually on November 12, 1684.

The "discourse" mentioned above, as being drawn up by Dr. Plot, was included in the Proceedings of the Royal Society which we examined, and will be published in a later issue of "ASBESTOS".

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PRODUCING SYNTHETIC DRUGS

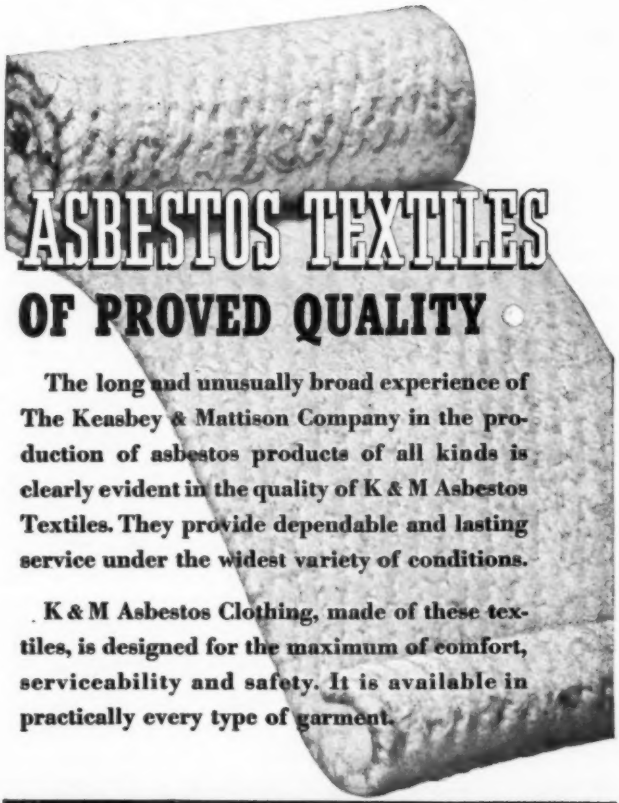
Asbestos Cloth as Breeding Ground for Fungi and for Collection of Dust

By F. R. Cozzens

Unstable conditions have made it necessary to develop substitutes for many essential drugs, especially those which were formerly imported from foreign lands.

So intense and widespread has been this development that quinine, hydrastin, cletrate, soya-oil, and certain subtropical resins are now being produced locally in amounts far in excess of our needs, and from their production has arisen a host of synthetic possibilities almost unlimited in scope. Strangely enough, the most valuable drug substitutes are being manufactured out of the residue of plants from which other drugs have previously been extracted. This residue, a pasty, odorous mass, commonly called sludge, undergoes a very complicated process en route from distillery to chemist's laboratory and an interesting feature is the role asbestos plays in making possible the final results.

Materials made of asbestos are generally known to be *resistant to the growth of fungi*, but odd as it seems, these same materials when inoculated under chemical conditions with fungi spores, make a much better breeding ground than do materials made of vegetable fibres. Since the very first step in producing a synthetic drug from plant residue is to ferment the pasty mass, the distiller spreads the product between layers of asbestos cloth which has previously been sprinkled liberally with brewer's yeast. These devices, known as incubators, are usually built in sections, one above another, each section being 2 x 3 feet. They are housed in a tight, humid atmosphere at a temperature of around 70 degrees F. After the period of fermentation (36 to 48 hours) the residue is sent from the incubators to another department where it is broken up by various chemicals, undergoing a process quite similar to the "cracking" of oil in the making of gasoline at a refinery. The



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final result is a dozen or more distinct substances, all originating from the mass of fermented residue.

We have neither time nor space for taking up the story of each substance thus derived, and which is further broken up by chemical action before reaching its final goal. All these derivatives, however, have one thing in common. Each contains chlorophyll, or the coloring matter of the original plant. For reasons yet unknown, certain chemical reactions necessary in the making of a synthetic product cannot be obtained until a large part of the chlorophyll is removed or destroyed. Chemists have discovered that this can be done very effectively by forcing the derivative under pressure, thru sieves made of asbestos thread, or finely woven asbestos cloth. These are cleaned after service by subjecting them to a dry bath, at a temperature around 200 degrees.

Fermentation, which first started the plant residue on its journey, is, of course destroyed later by the action of heat and chemical processes, and in the latter stage of synthetic materials it is invariably necessary to *prevent* fermentation. To fill this need, we find glazed asbestos wallboard fashioned in various designs, and used as driers. Tops of the testing tables are of a plastic material in combination with asbestos fibre. All such equipment is kept dusted with disinfectants. In dry-air oxidation, pressuring and cooking, three distinct processes to which synthetic drugs are subjected, we find curtains made of asbestos fibre and sprayed with sodium solutions serving as humidifiers and as collectors of inflammable dust.

Pressuring is usually done by the use of ether vapor, which is more difficult to control than nitro-glycerine. Breakers, made of rubber, combined with asbestos fibre, bakelite switch-handles wrapped with asbestos yarn, latex-asbestos insulation, and asbestos felt swabs for the handling of sodium nitrate, ethyl-chloride, etc., are essential equipment. The cooking process ranges from dry-air baths of 300 degrees F., to 65 and 80 degrees below zero, and for these extreme and delicate requirements, we find various types of asbestos insulation, made especially of blue asbestos. Since many synthetic drug derivatives are of a resin-

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Canadian Crude
Canadian Spinning Fibre
Canadian Shingle Fibre
Cyprus Asbestos
Italian Crude
Russian Crude
Rhodesian Crude
South African Blue Crude
South African Yellow Crude

ASBESTOS LIMITED INC.

8 West 40th Street : New York City

Works: MILLINGTON, N. J.

ous nature, soluble only at high temperatures, vats, drainage pipes and certain types of condensers are made of cements combined with asbestos fibre.

For these, and similar processes, much of the equipment containing asbestos is commercially made, altho many chemists prepare devices and gadgets on the job to fit particular needs. In numerous applications, such equipment can be replaced with no other known materials, and in practically all cases there is a reduction in manufacturing costs which have always been a serious factor in the making of synthetic drugs.

MAINE ASBESTOS DEPOSIT

A deposit of asbestos in Somerset County, Maine, has received some publicity in current newspapers.

Specimen from this deposit has been sent us by Blaine S. Viles of Augusta, Me., and we must confess we are rather surprised at its quality. It is of the slipfibre chrysotile variety and altho the fibres are short, they appear to be fairly strong. We understand that the deposit also contains some anthophyllite.

So far, however, we have no information as to the size of the deposit, its accessibility, or percentage of asbestos content to the rock.

Quality, of course is one thing—actual commercial value, in the case of asbestos, is quite another, depending on many and varying factors.

The specimen has been added to our collection of crude asbestos from all parts of the world.

—:—

Coal production in Canada during the six months ended June 30, 1940, totalled 8,175,492 tons, as against 6,816,281 tons in the first six months of 1939.

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EDITORIALS

EDUCATION

The opening of the schools in September after the summer holidays, and the trek of higher grade students into colleges in October, makes us think of education as something to be learned in schools and colleges only.

But education in a wider sense is responsible for many of our privileges, our high standard of living, and most of our luxuries.

Education thru advertising has been a tremendous force in giving us the comforts and the luxuries which we enjoy.

Education can go still farther and relieve us of many of the evils to which the world is subject.

Safety classes in factories, in schools; peace propaganda in an effort to make people abhor war; efforts of insurance companies to "educate" the people in the use of proper medicines, in the proper care of children; — we could write page after page enumerating the many ways in which people are being constantly educated to healthful and enjoyable living.

Education often solves the problem when "crack down" methods would only stir up enmity and strife. Teaching men that fair play puts money into their pockets is much more effective than locking them up in jail *after* the commitment of some delinquency.

The favorite expression of a man prominent in the Asbestos Industry some years ago was "You can catch more flies with molasses than with vinegar"; likewise by education the public can be taught many things and much trouble can be avoided.

BOOSTING!

Along with a dividend check a week or so ago came a gentle reminder: "Stockholders are reminded that they can contribute to the success of their company by requesting their brokers and agents to place their business with the Blank Company. Your cooperation in this direction is earnestly requested."

It made us think just a little. Stockholders can do a lot of berating if dividends fall off, but do you and I think of the companies back of the various stocks and bonds we may buy and hold, before placing business of this, that or the other sort.

And by this we don't mean "big business"—large orders placed by large companies do in a great majority of cases go to those suppliers who have some business relation with the buyer.

What we are talking about is the small order. For instance, to use one of the largest companies in the country as an illustration, how many people who own stock in the General Electric Company (there are about 209,000 stockholders we understand) insist on having and using General Electric Company light bulbs and electric appliances?

Your order for light bulbs may be only, well say $2.00 a year, but that multiplied by 209,000 means $418,000. The same thing applies to hundreds of other things.

This isn't a new thought of course—but it does bear thinking about.

And broadcasting the idea to the stockholder along with the dividend check wasn't such a bad idea either.

—:—

It is impossible in one week out of a year to give your retail salesman enough ideas to keep him on his toes thruout the balance of the year.—*R. G. Leavitt, Mdsg. Mgr., Purina Mills.*

MINE BUILDINGS OF HAVELOCK ASBESTOS MINES

Another view (see one on cover) of the Havelock Asbestos Mines, owned by New Amianthus Mines, Limited, and located in Swaziland, Africa. Note the native huts in the left foreground.

Above, from left to right, are the Main Shaft headframe and various mill buildings, with offices and workshops below, power station with fuel storage tanks, aerial ropeway terminal just above and employees' quarters and recreation club off to the right. The Havelock Asbestos Mines began production in June 1939.

Photo courtesy of New Amianthus Mines, Limited.

THEY SAY!

The New York City Police Department recently purchased two new airplanes,—one a seaplane and the other a landplane—for use in patrolling the skies and surveying and reporting on the streets and highways, particularly over the weekends, the seaplane beink especially useful in aiding drowning persons, ships in distress, and locating missing boats.

Among the equipment of these plans is that for ambulance service, including first-aid kits, stretchers, flares and asbestos suits.

The New York City police have used airplanes since 1929.

—:—

Bomb Snuffers to combat incendiary bombs are used at British factories. They are made of wire, dome shaped, sprayed with asbestos and fitted with long handles, something along the candle snuffer idea only of course many times larger.

—:—

One type of multi-conductor cable for elevator control uses asbestos in an interesting way. Flame and waterproof rubber is used to insulate the soft, flexible copper strands, a wall of felted asbestos being applied over the rubber. The individual conductors are then cabled together with fire resistant fillers, the cable then being bound together with a single-faced rubberized tape. The outside finish of the electric cable is a reinforced asbestos braid saturated with flameproof and moisture resisting compound.

—:—

An inquiry which reached us a few days ago asked if we could obtain a *gallon* of asbestos fibre as a sample to be used for experimental purposes.

—:—

Most worries are about "yesterday" and "tomorrow".

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK--

October 6th to 12th
Plan your program now

The slogan for National Fire Prevention Week this year is KEEP FIRE IN ITS PLACE. This slogan ties right in with the use of asbestos materials, many of which help enormously to keep it in place.

How can manufacturers and especially contractors and distributors handling asbestos insulation, shingles, siding, paper, millboard, textiles, safety clothing, turn the national observance of the week to their advantage in their own localities?

This question is best answered by each seller of asbestos products, for his own community, but ideas for fire prevention campaigns and cleanup weeks, can be obtained from the National Fire Protection Association at 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Mass., which has prepared a number of pamphlets, posters, flyers, etc., for use by Clubs, schools and campaign committees.

Particularly good is the Fire Safety Quiz, an eight page folder containing a short text on fire prevention and protection, a quiz on the text and other instructive and entertaining questions. A picture book has been prepared for school children, a handbook intended primarily for the guidance of committees planning the week's campaign will be found very useful, as will also a 16 page pamphlet reproducing 22 photographs of successful state and county fire exhibits, window displays and other exhibits to dramatize fire prevention. These are all available at low cost from the National Fire Protection Association; ask for their price list.

In 1939 there were 10,000 people in the United States and 263 in Canada (these are estimated figures) who lost their lives from fire; the property loss from fire in 1939 was (also estimated) $274,943,000. These facts make it well worth your while to heartily support any campaign which may be underway in your community. If no campaign has

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14 Front St.

been started or is planned, why not start one? It may be a little late for an elaborate program, but a week's hard work with school heads, women's clubs, and other organizations will do wonders in making a great many people conscious of fire hazards to which they probably never before gave a thought.

And it's only a step from this to the selling of fire prevention and fire protection (asbestos) materials.

SAND BAGS vs. SANDBOXES

Sandbags used by Great Britain as buttresses and barricades in air raids, are likely to collapse in time, and therefore they are being largely replaced by sandboxes.

These sand boxes are made of various materials, one of which is moulded asbestos-cement. It is light in weight, yet strong, and permanent under all condition of exposure.

Buttresses and barracks are erected by laying the boxes in the manner of brickwork bonding, each course being filled with sand or earth before proceeding with the next. Their erection needs no more skilled labor than does good sandbagging, but it is, of course, necessary to start upon a dead level foundation and plumb the work during erection.

Standard boxes are 24 in. long by 10 in. deep by 12 in. wide, and 18 in. long, 9 in. deep, 9 in. wide. The material is 3.8 in. thick and each box holds approximately 150 pounds and 75 pounds of sand respectively.

The clean, light gray finish of the asbestos-cement is permanent, needs no painting or other maintenance, and is of considerable value under black-out conditions.

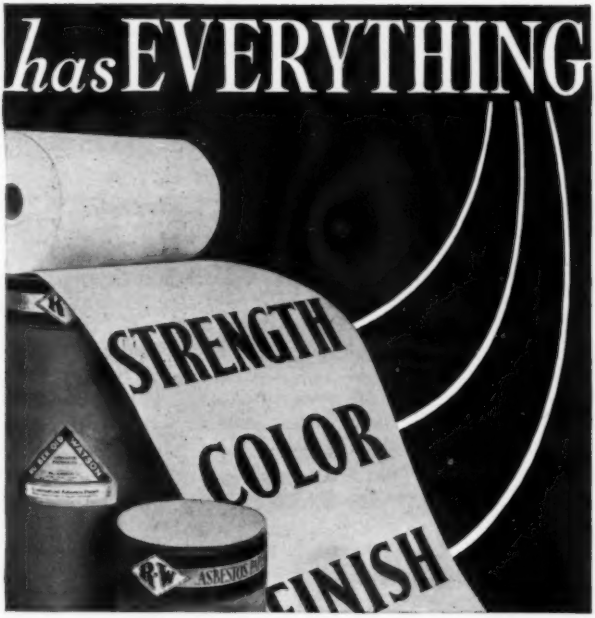
—:—

Doing a common thing uncommonly well often brings success.

—:—

British Columbia's fisheries production had a marketed valued of $17,698,980 in 1939, of which the famed salmon fishery contributed $12,994,812, or 73 per cent.

has EVERYTHING



Here's an asbestos paper that has *everything!* It's called RU-BER-OID—WATSON No. 43-A.

It has STRENGTH—obtained by special processing. Its wet strength simplifies paste application. It has COLOR—the right color. It's blue white, and stays that color. It has FINISH—one side, smooth and water-repellent; on the other, rough-textured for better adhesion.

These features make No. 43-A ideal for protecting air conditioning ducts, wrapping furnace pipes, lining stoves, ovens and gas ranges. Write for full details.

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SALESMEN WITH ILLUSIONS

By John T. Bartlett

There was something very naive about Harry Bliss. Joining the Consolidated Western, he became a 32nd degree loyalist. The Consolidated Western was the best company in the world. It gave its customers a square deal. And it treated its salesmen right!

There was a cynical old chap on the staff named Wiley, who had discovered, a great many years before, that there was no Santa Claus, and who held to the belief that a salesman was a blankety-blank idiot for "giving the best years of his life" to any corporation.

He got young Harry to one side, and lectured him. An incredulous light came in the young chap's eyes. Politely, he broke the conversation—and a few hours later was heard to remark to a fellow salesman, "Isn't it too bad about Wiley? That old boy certainly has gone to seed. Unless he tumbles to himself before long, he'll get what is coming to him!"

"Meaning what?"

"Well, what does any disloyal, back-biting salesman deserve? The gate!"

And Harry, starry-eyed with illusions, believing that the harder he worked, the greater would be his reward, kept right on doing the work of two men. Harry Bliss is the sales manager of Consolidated Western today!

Is virtue its own reward? Does the chap who works the hardest always get remembered in the Christmas promotions? As realists, we have to admit that the correct answer is "No." But as salesmen, in respect to various illusions, being realists is not our cue.

"Oil For The Lamps of China" was a magnificent motion picture, based on the theme of an employee's loyalty. The salesman was visited with what seemed one injustice after another—but his loyalty never swerved. Eventually, all the way from New York by trans-Pacific telephone came his reward.

Salesmen with illusions! They conquer the world!

Rhodesian
Transvaal
Canadian
(BELL MINE)

ASBESTOS

DISTRIBUTORS

FRANCE and BELGIUM

GEORGES PARLY
10, Rue De La Pepiniere
Paris

JAPAN

C. H. NELSON
P. O. Box 1633, Kobe

Raw Asbestos Distributors Limited

Spotland
ROCHDALE, Lancs., England.

MARKET CONDITIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business conditions are very adequately summed up in the following short paragraphs:

"Trade and industrial activity has held at a high level during August. The forward movement has not been as brisk as from May thru July, but a flattening out was to be expected after the rise, and as inventories were replenished. A considerable number of industries are running close to practical capacity; and altho they expect to continue at high rates, further gains will be slower. The steel rate is above 90 per cent. All the industries influenced by the defense program or having British orders, are busy, and even in textiles and other lines of everyday use government buying is giving support.

"New construction has reached the highest volume since 1930, due both to record activity in small home building and to industrial contracts representing the beginnings of plant expansion for armament requirements.

"When factories are put up in new places, or plants greatly enlarged, new housing has to be provided for workers."

So much for the present—the future depends on so many unknown and unpredictable factors that in our limited space it is not possible to competently discuss them.

ASBESTOS - RAW MATERIAL

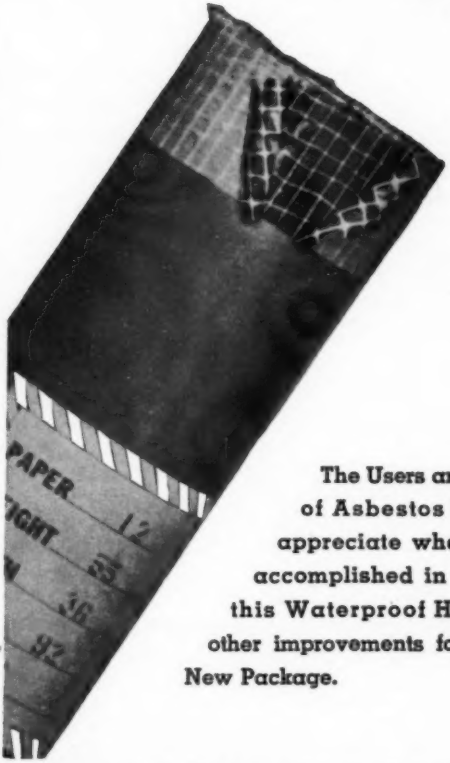
No doubt this winter will see some curtailment of production of asbestos in Canada, because of the loss of most of their European market.

Asbestos shipments from South Africa are reaching the United States with great regularity and altho freights are higher, the European War does not seem to have affected sailings to any degree. There is no change in prices.

ASBESTOS—MANUFACTURED GOODS

Textiles. During the past thirty days there appears

New HEADER



The Users and Handlers of Asbestos Paper will appreciate what we have accomplished in presenting this Waterproof Header and other improvements found in this New Package.

NORRISTOWN MAGNESIA & ASBESTOS CO.
NORRISTOWN PENNSYLVANIA

to have been a rather sharp up-turn in the demand for asbestos textiles. The price level remains fairly firm, and the prospect for an exceptionally fine fourth quarter on textile sales is apparent.

The increased demand can still be attributed in part to orders either direct or indirect from Government Departments.

Brake Lining. The July sales for domestic consumption have continued, as in previous months this year, to record an increase over the same month last year, while for export are higher than those for June and for last July. For the seven months period, both export sales and those for domestic consumption exceed those for the same period last year.

Paper and Millboard. The paper market shows fair demand which will naturally increase if and when the Low Pressure Insulation market lives up to the expectations for its improvement.

Insulation. High Pressure. Business in this line continues to show limited signs of improvement, altho no startling increase in shipments has been noted thus far. Prices are firm.

Insulation. Low Pressure. The outlook is for a very large heating season which, if it materializes should be reflected by great demand in the Low Pressure market within the next sixty days. At present demand is seasonable.

Asbestos-Cement Products. Sales of asbestos-cement products of all types—shingles, sidings, wallboards, corrugated sheets and pipes—are substantially ahead of the same period for 1939, and reflect generally improved business conditions, as well as reported increases in small home construction and industrial construction for national defense. Prospects are that this satisfactory increase in volume will be even greater during the fall months and is likely to continue at more than normal volume thru the winter, as a result of industrial construction.

The above represent the opinions of men closely in touch with the several markets. Opinions from any of our readers are always welcome.

SEALING COMPOUNDS USE ASBESTOS

Sealing compounds—their name is legion; most, if not all of them use asbestos fibre. And while not generally classed as a basic asbestos product, they must manage, in the course of a year, to use vast quantities of short grade asbestos fibre.

Occasionally is developed a compound which has outstanding qualities and is therefore classed above the common run of such compositions. Such is the **Firmex** Sealing Compound claimed to be.

Recently developed, patented and placed on the market by the Firmex Plastic Company[1], which has for many years been experimenting in the manufacture of plastic materials for use in general sealing and caulking work, it is claimed to be permanently waterproof, plastic and weather proof.

It was originally intended for setting up of clay tiles in walls and for the backing of glass tiles, but other applications have overshadowed its use in tile work. For instance, it is used in the sealing of conduits, for a cushion layer or expansion joint in wood block or other types of pavements, and it is used in every other sort of place where sealing materials are required—the sealing of joints and seams between doors, window frames, skylights, chimneys, etc.

The manufacturers[1] who will be glad to supply further information upon request, claim that it is unaffected by vibration, vermin, heat, cold, or severe weather conditions, and asbestos is accountable very largely for these very desirable qualities.

[1] **Firmex Plastic Company, 104 Nineteenth St., Brooklyn, N. Y.**

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Nothing is work unless you would rather be doing something else.

CONTRACTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS PAGE

Sales Tools

An article under the above name in the June issue of the American Roofer makes some very good suggestions to the salesman.

One which we felt particularly helpful was to carry in the sample case a piece of black velvet. White shingles, pipe covering or almost anything in the sample line of building materials will show up much more effectively against the black velvet than when laid on any surface which happens to be handy. Try it and see.

Another suggestion which would seem obvious, but which isn't always followed, is to use *clean* samples no matter what the material is.

To the salesman of asbestos products we, ourselves, particularly recommend the carrying of a small piece of crude asbestos. Invariably this will arouse interest and if you can leave the sample with the prospect when the interview is over, so much the better. Most men have a son, a nephew, or know some young boy interested in collecting minerals.

The article in the American Roofer[1] is written especially for the roofing salesman or contractor, but almost all the suggestions are applicable to other materials. We commend it to your reading.

[1] Published at 425 Fourth Ave., New York City.

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Building

Construction contracts awarded during the month of July in the 37 eastern states amounted to $398,673,000, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation. The increase over July 1939 was 33 per cent and the increase over June of this year was 23 per cent. Private construction contracts increased 19 per cent over July 1939, and public construction contracts (reflecting the beginning of awards under the defense program) increased 50 per cent.

Most conspicuous in the increased volume of private construction were commercial and manufacturing buildings and

single-family houses. The latter class of project, which has been running very strong from the beginning of the year, is making 1940 the largest residential-building year since 1929.

The large July increase in total contracts put the accumulated volume of all construction started from the first of the year one per cent ahead of the accumulated total for the first seven months of 1939. While private construction has forged ahead during the preceding months, its gains up to July 1 were more than offset by declines in public construction. Thus the preparedness program includes a volume of construction that has begun to replace the public works programs of former years.

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New business obtained by the construction industry in Canada during the first half of 1940 totalled $125,400,000, an increase of 50 per cent over the corresponding period of 1939.—Canadian Resources Bulletin.

—:—

Twelve Tables For Estimating

The 12 tables mentioned in recent issues of "ASBESTOS" cover

Sq. Ft. Areas Pipe Covering
Mean Sq. Ft. Areas Standard Screwed Fittings
Mean Area Standard Weight Flanged Fittings
Standard Weight Flange Areas, Permanent Type
Standard Weight Flange Areas, Removable Type
Figuring Hair Felt, 1", 1½", 2"
Anti-Frost Insulation
Cork Pipe Covering, Outside Area in Sq. Ft.
Ice Water Thick Cork Moulded Fittings Screwed, Outside Area in Sq. Ft.
Brine Thickness Cork Molded Fittings, Screwed, Outside Area in Sq. Ft.
Special Thickness Cork Moulded Fittings, Screwed, Outside Area in Sq. Ft.
Ducts and Flue Perimeters.

A set of these can be had for $1.00; send your orders to "ASBESTOS", 16th Floor, Inquirer Bldg., Philadelphia. Estimators will find them most helpful.

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Business is like a wheelbarrow — it stands still unless someone pushes it.

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

BIRTHDAYS

Furbur Marshall, President, Marshall Asbestos Co., Troy, N. Y. September 16.

W. N. Bolster, President and Treasurer, Asbestos Covering & Textile Co., Boston, Mass., September 20.

Harold B. Buse, Secretary-Treasurer, Asbestos Contractors New England Association, Boston, Mass., September 20.

J. W. Ledeboer, Second Vice President, Keasbey & Mattison Co., Ambler, Pa., September 20.

G. Koerner, President, Insulating & Materials Co., St. Louis, Mo., September 24.

M. William Bray, Secretary, Mohawk Asbestos Shingles, Inc., Oneida, N. Y., September 25.

C. Stanley Morgan, Detroit, Mich., September 25.

R. H. Temple, Treasurer, Thermoid Co., Trenton, N. J., September 25.

W. J. Moeller, Vice President, Philip Carey Mfg. Co., Lockland, Cincinnati, O., September 26.

E. R. Teubner, Jr., President and Treasurer, Philadelphia Asbestos Co., Philadelphia, Pa., September 26.

Fred Surridge, Manager, Grant Wilson, Inc., St. Louis, Mo., September 26.

M. J. O'Malley, President, Standard Asbestos Mfg. Co., Chicago, Ill., September 26.

J. M. High, Ruberoid Co., New York City, N. Y., September 28.

O. P. Hennig, President, Hennig Asbestos & Packing Co., October 3.

A. M. Robinson, Secretary, Johnson's Co., Thetford Mines, P. Q., Canada, October 8.

John H. Victor, President, Victor Mfg. & Gasket Co., Chicago, Ill., October 9.

Russell E. Crawford, Secretary, Ehret Magnesia Mfg. Co., Valley Forge, Pa., October 9.

C. P. Brockway, Vice President, World Bestos Co., Paterson, N. J., October 12.

R. Tomlinson, President, Pacific Asbestos Supply Co., Portland, Ore., October 12.

W. W. F. Shepherd, Chairman of the Board, Keasbey & Mattison Co., Ambler, Pa., October 13.

W. M. Paxton, Raybestos Division, Bridgeport, Conn., October 14.

Thomas D. Stone, President, Stone Industrial Equipment Co., Springfield, Mass., October 14.

• BLUE ASBESTOS

The Cape Asbestos Company, Ltd., is the world's largest supplier of acid-resistant blue crocidolite asbestos, and the only manufacturer operating its own mines. Inquiries solicited on:

MILLBOARD **YARNS**
ROVINGS **POWDER** **CLOTHS**
PROCESSED FIBRES
Unexcelled for use in
ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPES

• AMOSITE ASBESTOS

This fibre owing to its great length and bulk is unrivalled for use as an insulating medium in:

Asbestos mattress filler
85% Magnesia Insulation

The CAPE ASBESTOS CO. Limited

Morley House, 28-30 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.I.
FACTORY, BARKING, ESSEX

United States Sales Agent:
ARNOLD W. KOEHLER
415 LEXINGTON AVE. **NEW YORK CITY**
TELEPHONE—VANDERBILT 6-1477

R. H. Shainwald, President, Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works, San Francisco., Calif., October 15.

To all these gentlemen we extend best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of their birthdays.

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CAREY CANADIAN PLANT--- Plans Addition

The Philip Carey Company, Ltd., of Lennoxville, Que., devoted to the manufacture of asbestos and asphalt products, is providing additional floor space and storage room by the construction of an addition to its plant.

Estimated cost of the addition is $50,000, and is made necessary because of the increased activity in Canada and the present crowded condition of the present factory.

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MANHATTAN RUBBER--Buys Brighton Mills Property

To provide needed additional space for storage and steadily expanding manufacturing facilities, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., has purchased the Brighton Mills plant adjacent to the main plant of The Manhattan Rubber Mfg. Division at Passaic, N. J., according to an announcement made by F. L. Curtis, General Manager.

The property includes approximately 5½ acres on which are buildings with 240,000 square feet of floor space. It is situated on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.

The development of new rubber products and the wider use of rubber goods by several major industries, has resulted in a steady growth of Manhattan's business, necessitating additional manufacturing and storage space.

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ASBESTOS FIBRE SPINNING CO.--Issues Safety Clothing Catalog

The "merchant from China" (see page 6) would be much surprised if he could see the new Asbestos Safety Service Catalog just issued by the Asbestos Fibre Spinning Company. It contains 24 pages, and illustrates 16 different types of asbestos mitts and gloves, besides sleeves, overalls, hand pads, leggings, uniforms, aprons, caps, over shoes, hoods, coats, curtains, blankets, and other fire protection equipment.

Perhaps the most interesting item is the non-burning life line made of asbestos yarn braided over very flexible steel sash chain with 600 lb. tensile strength. The chain is for use by fire departments and other fire fighting and rescue crews.

Copy of the catalog may be obtained by any one interested upon request direct to the Asbestos Fibre Spinning Co., North Wales, Pa.

RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC., report net income for the six months ended June 30, 1940, of $919,158.91, or $1.46 per share, after providing for depreciation and taxes. The profits of the wholly owned Canadian Subsidiary have not been included. They had no material effect on the consolidated statement of the Company, and will be reported in the annual report of the corporation.

The Directors at their meeting on August 21st, declared a dividend of 25c per share, payable September 16, 1940, to stockholders of record at the close of business August 30, 1940.

THE RUBEROID CO., has announced the appointment of E. J. O'Leary, as division manager at Mobile, Ala., to succeed the late E. F. Hale. Mr. O'Leary has been with the company since 1930. He was appointed sales manager of the Mobile Division a year ago, after serving five years as assistant to the sales manager in Baltimore.

K. E. Miller, assistant to the sales manager at Baltimore, has been appointed to the post of divisional sales manager at Mobile.

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TRADE MARKS

We have arranged with the National Trade-Mark Company, Munsey Building, Washington, D. C., to conduct this department for our readers. The trade-marks have recently been passed for publication by the U. S. Patent Office and are in line for early registration unless opposition is filed.

An advance search without charge on any trade-mark our readers may contemplate adopting or registering has been arranged for. Write us, or send inquiry direct to the National Trade-Mark Company, mentioning our name.

K & M Best in Asbestos. And picture of cat. Serial No. 424,880. Keasbey & Mattison Company, Ambler, Pa. Filed October 25, 1939. For packings and gaskets such as rod, plunger, piston, asbestos gasketing, tapes, woven asbestos gasketing tapes, asbestos wick, asbestos rope, etc. Published December 12, 1939.

Trip-L-Seal. Serial No. 425,970. Trip-L-Seal, Inc., Washington, D. C. Filed Nov. 25, 1930. For Composition or Admixture for Incorporation with a Concrete Mix and the Like. Published March 5, 1940.

Glatex. Serial No. 425,019. United States Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill. Filed Oct. 28, 1939. For Asbestos Cement Shingles and Siding. Published March 5, 1940.

"King of the Roof" with illustration of bandaged cat. Serial No. 425,356. Mobile Paint Mfg. Co. of Delaware, Inc., Wilmington, Del., and Mobile, Ala. Filed Nov. 7, 1939. For Liquid Roof

Coating with Asbestos Fibre and Asphalt Base, and Plastic Roofing Cement. Published March 26, 1940.

Vitramic. Serial No. 430,878. The Ruberoid Co., Boundbrook, N. J. Filed April 17, 1940. For Asbestos Cement Siding. Published June 18, 1940.

Doublex. Serial No. 420,485. Johns-Manville Corporation, New York, N. Y. Filed June 14, 1939. For Asbestos Paper. Published July 16, 1940.

Soruco. Serial No. 431,630. Southern Rubber Co., Inc., Greensboro, N. C. Filed May 6, 1940. For Rubber Transmission Belting, Hose, Rubber and Asbestos Packings for Pump Rods, Pump Gaskets, etc. Published August 20, 1940.

PATENTS

This information obtained from the Official Patent Gazette, published weekly by the U. S. Patent Office, Washington, D. C.

Wick for Oil Burners. No. 2,210,290. Granted on August 6, 1940 to Alvin F. Heinsohn, North Charleston, S. C., assignor to Raybestos-Manhattan, Passaic, N. J. Application July 3, 1939. Serial No. 282,616.

A wick for an oil burner comprising a strip of woven fabric, a plurality of longitudinal edge defining warp strands thereof being formed of glass yarn, the balance of the warp strands thereof being formed of asbestos yarn.

Roofing Material. No. 2,210,348. Granted on August 6, 1940 to John W. Swope, Waco, Texas. Assignor of 5% to Ernest A. Flowers, Jr., and 7% to E. Doyle Garrett, both of McLennan Co., Texas. Application April 18, 1939. Serial No. 268,608.

An improved building material comprising a woven cotton base completely imbedded in a coating composition comprising approximately 200 parts by weight of Texas Uvalde Rock Asphalt, 50 parts by weight of asbestos fibre, 5 parts by weight of rubber, 30 parts by weight of turpentine resin mixed with cottonseed oil.

Gasket. No. 2,210,453. Granted on August 6, 1940 to Earl Ginn, N. Muskegon, Mich. Assignor by mesne assignments to Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Detroit, Mich. Application April 17, 1937. Serial No. 137,489. Description upon request.

Oil Seal Diaphragm. No. 2,210,748. Granted on August 6, 1940 to Wilburn F. Bernstein, Brookfield, Ill., Assignor to Victor Mfg. & Gasket Co., Chicago, Ill. Application June 26, 1939. Serial No. 281,194.

An oil seal diaphragm comprising a base of leather reduced to a mass of substantially individual fibres bound by a chloroprene binder, the binder being in an amount sufficient to produce a diaphragm having greater flexibility than leather.

Africa (S. Rhodesia)

(Statistics by Rhodesia Chamber of Mines)

	May 1940 Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value £	s	d
Bulawayo District				
Shabanie (Rho. & Gen. Asb. Corp., Ltd.)	3,155.95	66,383	1	0
Nil Desperandum (African Asb. Mng. Co., Ltd.)	915.30	10,065	4	4
Victoria District				
Gath's & King (Rho. & Gen. Asb. Corp., Ltd.)	733.51	13,888	17	1
Murie Asbestos (Mashaba Rho. Asb. Co., Ltd.)	17.00	316	10	0
Regina (African Asb. Mng. Co., Ltd.)	66.52	1,040	4	0
	4,888.28	£91,693	16	5
May 1939	*4,850.40*	*£87,068*	*19*	*11*

Africa (Swaziland)

June 1940 (Chrysotile) ..... 2000.90 Tons (2000 lbs.)
June 1939[1] (Chrysotile) ..... 700.00 Tons (2000 lbs.)

[1] Asbestos was first produced in Swaziland during June 1939.

Africa (Union of South)

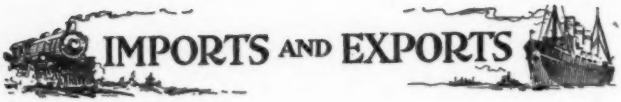
(Statistics published by Dept. of Mines & Industries of U. of S. A.)

	April 1939 Tons (2000 lbs.)	April 1940 Tons (2000 lbs.)
Transvaal		
Amosite	714	1,458
Blue	393	364
Chrysotile	37	20.
Cape		
Blue	525	539
	1,669	2,381

Canada.

(Statistics published by Bureau of Mines, Province of Quebec)

Production July 1940 ..... 30,342 tons (2000 lbs.)
Production July 1939 ..... 28,671 tons (2000 lbs.)



Imports into U. S. A.

(Figures published by U. S. Dept. of Commerce)

	June 1939 Tons (2240 lbs.)	June 1940 Tons (2240 lbs.)
Unmanufactured Asbestos Goods:		
Africa (Br. S.)	863	831
Australia	.....	1
Canada	15,212	12,452
Cyprus	901	1,350
Italy	2	1
United Kingdom	30	.....
	17,008	14,635
Value	*$638,231*	*$658,127*
Tabulation by Grades:		
Crude (Australia)	.....	1
Crude (Br. S. Africa)	863	831
Crude (Canada)	94	146
Crude (Italy)	2	1
Crude (United Kingdom)	30	.....
Milled Fibre (Canada)	4,188	4,606
Lower Grades (Canada)	10,930	7,700
Lower Grades (Cyprus)	901	1,350
	17,008	14,635

Manufactured Asbestos Goods:	June 1939 Pounds	June 1940 Pounds
Belgium (Shingles)	131,611	.....
Canada (Pipe & Boiler Covg.)	.....	77
France (Packing)	.....	200
Germany (Packing)	78	.....
United Kingdom (Yarn)	3,600	2,434
United Kingdom (Packing)	2,080	3,418
United Kingdom (W. Fabrics)	276	5,385
	137,645	11,514
Value	*$ 4,959*	*$7,101*

Exports from U. S. A.

Exports of Unmanufactured Asbestos for the month of June 1940 were 455 tons, valued at $56,679; in the same month last year 177 tons, valued at $21,033 were exported.

Exports of Manufactured Asbestos Goods:

	June 1939		June 1940	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Paper, Mlbd. & Rlbd. ....lbs.	97,221	$ 9,511	239,453	$31,934
Pipe Covg. & Cement ....lbs.	462,964	35,452	213,882	14,067
Textiles & Yarn .....lbs.	30,254	8,050	63,218	20,681
Packing .....lbs.	101,212	60,844	160,086	76,667
Brake Lining—				
Molded & S-molded	.....	68,165	.....	69,595
Not molded .....lin. ft.	114,393	21,666	77,926	14,834
Clutch Facings—				
Molded & S-molded units	19,049	10,893	12,545	4,079
Woven .....units	10,796	3,266	14,442	5,061
Magnesia & Mfrs. of ....lbs.	168,334	15,573	230,202	16,473
Asbestos Roofing .....sqs.	3,993	19,912	5,342	23,589
Other Manufactures ....lbs.	246,620	23,181	774,525	54,579

Exports of Raw Asbestos from Canada

(Figures by Dominion Bureau of Statistics)

	June 1939		June 1940	
	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value
United Kingdom	2,424	$ 146,269	3,815	$ 247,299
United States	4,904	321,029	5,964	433,713
Australia	180	11,880	591	40,882
Argentina	40	2,640	.....	.....
Belgium	3,952	269,882	.....	.....
Chile	600	44,400	313	21,162
Finland	11	468	.....	.....
France	5,078	367,962	.....	.....
Germany	2,934	321,812	.....	.....
Italy	432	36,632	750	84,954
Japan	2,025	119,337	1,228	93,254
Latvia	55	2,970	.....	.....
Netherlands	115	5,022	.....	.....
New Zealand	16	960	.....	.....
Poland and Danzig	148	12,998	.....	.....
Spain	10	570	1,689	118,042
Sweden	845	56,259	.....	.....
China	75	3,189	100	4,674
	23,844	$1,724,279	14,450	$1,043,980

Exports of Raw Asbestos from Canada (Contd)

Sand and Waste

	June 1939		June 1940	
	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value	Tons (2000 lbs.)	Value
United Kingdom	760	14,210	1,336	33,388
United States	11,313	204,258	8,687	181,587
Argentina	15	210	.....	.....
Belgium	413	7,919	.....	.....
China	25	1,063	.....	.....
Cuba	.....	.....	30	462
France	255	5,855	.....	.....
Germany	379	7,885	.....	.....
Netherlands	22	528	.....	.....
Puerto Rica	.....	.....	30	756
Spain	7	164	.....	.....
Sweden	57	777	.....	.....
	13,246	$ 242,869	10,083	$ 216,193
Grand Total	*37,090*	*$1,967,148*	*24,533*	*$1,260,173*

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AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION

Automobile Production dropped sharply in July 1940 from the June figure. The July figure was 246,171 (231,703 in the United States and 14,468 in Canada). In June 362,566 motor vehicles were produced, 344,646 of these in the U. S. A. and 17,930 in Canada. The drop is largely if not entirely due to the fact that new models were coming out in the early fall. July 1939 production was 218,600.

The production for the first seven months of 1940 is also ahead of the same period in 1939; the first seven months of 1940 showing a total of 2,735,914, while 2,246,428 were produced in the same period in 1939.

RAW ASBESTOS

N. V. NEDERLANDSCHE ASBEST MY

P. O. BOX 803

ROTTERDAM (Holland)

Stock at Rotterdam

CURRENT RANGE OF PRICE

Canadian

	Per Ton (2000 lbs.) f.o.b. Mine (In U.S. Funds)
Group No. 1 (Crude No. 1)	$700.00 to $750.00
Group No. 2 (Crude No. 2; Crude Run-of-Mine and Sundry)	150.00 to 350.00
Group No. 3 (Spinning or Textile Fibre)	110.00 to 200.00
Group No. 4 (Shingle Fibre)	57.00 to 85.50
Group No. 5 (Paper Fibre)	40.00 to 49.50
Group No. 6 (Waste, Stucco or Plaster)	30.00 to 32.00
Group No. 7 (Refuse or Shorts)	13.00 to 28.00

Vermont—	Per Ton (2000 lbs.) f. o. b. Hyde Park, Vt.
"Shingle" Fibre	$57.00 to $60.00
Paper Stock Fibres	40.00 to 48.00
Waste	30.00
Shorts	13.00 to 26.00
Floats	18.00

Note: Crude Run-of-Mine (Canadian) refers to a crude asbestos produced in certain mines where Crude Fibre is not graded into regular No. 1 and 2 Crude. Crude Sundry refers to certain odd lots of off grade material which do not conform to the regular standards of No. 1 Crude or No. 2 Crude.

ASBESTOS STOCK QUOTATIONS

(These figures are compiled from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. No guarantee made as to their correctness).

		August 1940		
	Par	Low	High	Last
Armstrong Cork Co. (Com.)	np	29¼	31½	31½
Asbestos Corp. (Com.)	np	15⅛	17	16
Celotex (Com.)	np	5¾	6⅝	6⅝
Celotex (Pfd.)	100	45	57	52½
Certainteed (Com.)	1	3⅞	4½	4½
Certainteed (Pfd.)	100	19½	23¾	23½
Flintkote (Com.)	np	13	15	15
Johns-Manville (Com.)	np	57	65	65
Johns-Manville (Pfd.)	100	124	127½	125
Raybestos-Manhattan (Com.)	np	16¾	19½	19
Ruberoid (Com.)	np	13¼	15¾	14
Thermoid (Com.)	1	3	3¾	3¾
Thermoid (Pfd.)	10	23	29⅞	29
U. S. Gypsum (Com.)	20	63	75	75
U. S. Gypsum (Pfd.)	100	175	182	181

THIS and THAT

The United Roofing Contractors' Association will hold its 54th annual convention at the Hotel Kentucky, Louisville, Ky., on January 27, 28 and 29, 1941.

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Do not neglect to read the interesting messages each month contained in the advertisements of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. This month the ad appears on the inside front cover.

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The August number of the United Roofer (published by the United Roofing Contractors' Association, 53 W. 46th St., New York City) is a particularly interesting one. And we especially commend to your attention the article "A Roofer Rants at Architects" which appears on page 8 of that number. Other articles in the same number are "Evolution of Seamless Metal Roofs," "How to Sell Roofs", "How Much Protection Does Your Contract Give You?" and "Heat that Hesitates." The last one mentioned, "Heat that Hesitates" is Part II of a series on roof and wall insulation.

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Asbestos Textile Manufacturers may be interested in the article "Identification of the Textile Fibers" by John H. Skinkle, which appears in the August 1940 number of the Rayon Textile Monthly, published at 303 Fifth Ave., New York City.

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A resolution of the Venezuelan Ministry of Finance of August 3rd, 1940, classifies piping of asbestos mixed with cement, having a diameter of not more than 102 millimeters, under a new tariff item (281-D) and reduces the duty from 0.05 to 0.005 bolivar per gross kilo. This action was taken for the purpose of equalizing the duty on this product with that on similar iron pipes.

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DO YOU KNOW-

That one of the seven power shovels used in the Johns-Manville Mine at Asbestos, Que., weighs over one million pounds, and could hold two 1½ story houses inside its control cab . . . . .

That the first roof made by man was a framework of poles covered with the skins of wild animals . . . . .

That on September 23, 1919, an 8700 ton merchant ship was launched under the name of "Magmeric", in commemoration of service rendered by the manufacturers of 85% Magnesia during the World War . . . . .

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(Send us interesting facts for this page concerning your company).